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* " THIS WAY OUT " *
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* Property of Johnnie Speer *
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CAST

MRS. MALONEY COMEDY IRISH BIDDY
ERNIE WELFORD LIGHT COMEDY
HENRY POWELL LIGHT COMEDY

AUNT SARAH CHARACTER OLD WOMAN
ROSE SOUBRETTE

SETTING

C. D. Fancy.. Doors L. and R.

PROPS

Tagla.
Piece of candy
Telephone
Crash off stage
Telegram
Loaded Letter
Umbrella
Old woman wardrobe for Ernie.
Sign reading "Kick me."

THIS WAY OUT

HENRY POWELL

(ENTERS AFTER OPENING) Now I wonder what they are all laughing at? I invited them down here to have a good time and don't mind them having it, but I draw the line at being made a laughing stock. There's nothing the matter with my clothes. (TURNS BACK TO AUDIENCE FINALLY DISCOVERS SIGN AND REMOVES IT) Well, what do you think of that? Oh, these April fool jokers. No wonder they were all laughing and trying to kick me. (SEES LETTER ON TABLE) Hello. What's this? A letter for me. (READS) My dear nephew; realizing that I am growing old and that it is my duty to have my will made, and remember that you, my own nephew are an attorney at law, I will pay you a short visit to arrange all my affairs, as I am leaving the bulk of my fortune to you, my favorite nephew. Trusting that you are the same good Christian boy that you were when we last met, I remain as ever, your loving Aunt Sarah." That's great. My aunt coming here to make out the will and expecting to find me a goody-goody boy. Fine. Well, I'm not but I can darned soon be. I could be anything until I could get my hands on my dear aunt's money especially when I owe everybody in town. Suffering snow flakes what a hypocrite I am.

ERNIE WELFORD

(OFF Q.) Thank you. I'll find him.

HENRY

Great Scott, here's my aunt now. (ERNIE ENTERS THROWS ARMS ABOUT HIM) Hello, Auntie, Im so glad to you've come.

ERNIE

Get away; what's the matter with you? Are you going crazy?

HENRY

I beg your pardon. Why, hello, Ernie, I thought you were my aunt Sarah.

ERNIE

Oh you did, did you? Well, since when have I got to look like an old lady with a million bucks?

HENRY

You haven't, but I was so excited.

ERNIE

What caused you to get so excited?

HENRY

I just got a letter from the old gal and she is coming here to have me draw up her will. And say, what do you think? She's going to leave me the biggest part of her money.

ERNIE

That's good; then you can pay all your debts--especially me.

HENRY

Why I get my hands on Auntie's cash, I'll pay a hundred cents on the dollar; but what's the good word with you?

ERNIE

Everything's logely and the goose is hanging high; and if my plans work out the way I think they will, my life will be nothing but

sunshine and roses; but you must help me.

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HENRY
I never fixed a garden in all my life.

ERNIE
Who said anything about having you fix a garden?

HENRY
What's all this stuff about sunshine and roses?

ERNIE
Oh that? That was my Rose I was thinking of.

HENRY
Your rose? I don't understand; explain-

ERNIE
All right; listen. Last summer while I was on my vacation, I met a beautiful young lady by the name of Rose St. Claire. I fell madly in love with her and she did the same with me--

HENRY
Oh, the both of you went mad--

ERNIE
No, you fat head we both fell in love with each other.

HENRY
Was she kidding you?

ERNIE
Certainly she was--no, you idiot, she wasn't kidding me. She loves me and me alone.

HENRY
Does she drink?

ERNIE
No, she don't drink.

HENRY
No? Well is she blind?

ERNIE
Is she blind? Say, are you kidding me?

HENRY
No, you're doing that yourself. But get down to business. What are you trying to tell me. Get it off of your mind/

ERNIE
I will if you'll keep that trap of yours closed a minute.

HENRY
I'm shut--shoot.

ERNIE
Well, as I said before we love each other dearly--but her aunt who is her guardian-objects.

She's there with the big kick, is that it?

ERNIE

Exactly, and this aunt has fixed it so that it is impossible for me to write or even phone Rose. The old hen went so far that she took her abroad and I lost all track of her until this morning, when by accident I met them on the street. They had just returned so I pretended not to see them, and in walking past them I slipped her my card which has my phone number on it. Well, in some way she managed to call me up and over the phone I made arrangements with her to elope.

HENRY

Elope with her?

ERNIE

Why certainly with her.

HENRY

Nonsense, the old aunt will get wise, notify the police, and they will pull you off the train and throw you in jail, and take the young lady right back home.

ERNIE

Nothing of the kind. I'm too fixy for that. I'm going to buy myself a second hand old lady's outfit and put it on, and travel as her aunt until we can get somewhere where we can get married.

HENRY

What? You disguise yourself as an old lady?

ERNIE

Why certainly. You know all is fair in love and war. Well, I've got to be off now, and by the way, the young lady is to meet me here in your apartments, and if she gets here before I get back, entertain her to the best of your ability.

HENRY

I'll treat her just the same as you would.

ERNIE

Nothing like it; you treat her like you would a sister.

HENRY

Well, as I never had a sister, I may make a mess out of it.

ERNIE

And if you do I'll make a mess out of you. By the way who is that bunch of squabs I met parading up and down the hall?

HENRY

Oh, they are the young ladies who attend the music conservatory in the building here. Say, Ernie, I've caught a cold in my head; what's good for it? (SNEEZES)

ERNIE

Here, take one of these; chew it; they'll warm up that cold in a jiffy. (SNEEZES) Well, so long, don't forget what I told you. (EXIT C.D.)

HENRY

HENRY

All right. (TAKES PILL. SPITS OUT) Great Scott, I'm burning alive. I'm on fire, help water, police. (RUNS AROUND) I believe I'm poisoned.

ERNIE

(STICKS HEAD IN C. D. LAUGHS) No, Henry, just a little red pepper in the candy; April Fool! Good bye.

HENRY

April Fool Red Pepper, Well, darn him. (TO C. D.) Wait, I'll make the biggest April Fool out of you that you ever saw. (EXITS L.)

***** NUMBER ONE *****

HENRY

(AFTER NO. PHONE RINGS) Hello; yes this is me talking; oh how do you do, Mrs. Maloney? Oh that's all right I'll pay you for the washing in a day or so. What? Why don't I pay as promptly as my friend Ernie does? Well, I don't know; yes I do too; I'll tell you why. (ASIDE) Here's where I fix Ernie for that red pepper trick. Say, Mrs. Maloney do you know that my friend Ernie wants to get married to some nice Irish lady, and he has picked you. No I'm not fooling; honest. Why it was only a moment ago that he wrote you a nice loving note asking you to meet him here in my apartment. I've just called a messenger to send the note over to your house. Why certainly. Oh yes it will be right over. Good-bye. (HANGS UP) There I guess my April fooling friend will find that two can play at the same game. Now for that love note. (BUS WRITES) Dear, Mrs. Maloney; I am all alone in the world and so lonely, and would like to get a good partner for life. Someone who would meet me more than half way in courting, I am so bashful when in the presence of ladies. Now I realize that you are the one I love, so if you think anything of me, I wish you would call here and show me that you would really consider me as your husband; and in payment I promise to love, cherish and protect you as long as I live. Yours with a thousand kisses, Ernie. There that will teach my friend not to be fresh and---now I'll just get the janitor to send this note down to Mrs. Maloney. (CALLS OFF C. D.) Here, Janitor, do you know where the lady that does the washing for people in this building lives? You do? Good. I want you to give her this letter and see that no one else gets it but her. (HANDS LETTER OFF C. D.) Good now the Janitor will deliver this letter to Mrs. Maloney and when he does, my friend Ernie won't forget this April First.

***** NUMBER TWO *****

HENRY

Well the note was delivered all right, and if I'm not much mistaken there is going to be some fun around here before the day is over.

ROSE

(ENTERS C. D.) I beg your pardon but is this Lawyer Powell's office?

HENRY

It is and I am Mr. Powell. Whom have I the pleasure of meeting?

ROSE

Why didn't Ernie Welford tell you about me?

HENRY

Not that I
can

recollect; he says so much that I don't pay any attention to him. (ASIDE) Except when he gives me red pepper. What is it? 5

ROSE

Why he told me that I was to meet him here at your office.

HENRY

What for? Why meet him here? Have you no home that he could meet you in?

ROSE

But we are eloping and I had to get away from aunt and meet him here so that we can go and get married.

HENRY

How get married? What, again?

ROSE

Why, what do you mean?

HENRY

Well perhaps I had better not tell; Ernie might not like it, and maybe he doesn't want you to know.

ROSE

Oh but you must tell e. I must know.

HENRY

Well, I'll tell you on condition you promise not to say who told you.

ROSE

All right, I promise.

HENRY

All right then; you see I am a lawyer, and everytime he gets into scrapes, I get him out.

ROSE

Scrapes? What kind of scrapes?

HENRY

Well, such things as divorces and breach of promise suits. You see the man is very fond of the ladies, and he has a mania for proposing and getting them to run away with him.

ROSE

I don't believe it., How dare you say this of him.

HENRY

Well, I will prove it by letting you meet one of the ladies he has made love to.

ROSE

Who is this woman you speak of?

HENRY

Mrs. Maloney, the wash woman.

ROSE

What my Ernie making love to a washwoman? Oh the villian.

Yes, and the poor ladies heart is almost broken. (CRY BUS.)

ROSE

Oh that base deciever. Oh wait until I see him. Do you know what I'm going to do to him?

HENRY

No, what will you do?

ROSE

I'll take this parasol and I'll beat his head like this way.
(BEATS HENRY)

HENRY

Here, look what you're doing. (HE RUNS OFF SHE FOLLOWING HIM BEATING HIM AS SHE GOES)

**** NUMBER THREE *****

HENRY

(ENTERS) Well it wasn't my fault that Mrs. Maloney wasn't there.

ROSE

Oh I don't believe. I think that you are just lying to me about Ernie.

HENRY

If that washwoman had of been home, I'd have proven every word that I said.

ERNIE

(ENTERS HAS SUIT CASE) Well I got the lady's dress and all that goes with it, but I had my troubles getting it.

MRS. MALONEY

(ENTERS C. D.) Well I thought I would never get here; and I was in such a hurry I didn't want to keep the dear man waiting. (SEES ERNIE) Ah, there he is now, the sweet thing.

ERNIE

(DOES NOT SEE HER) I wonder where Henry is?

MRS. MALONEY

(FLIRTING) Coo--cooc.

ERNIE

(SEES HER) Hello, look what the wind blew in. Hello, Mrs. Maloney did you want to see Mr. Powel.

MRS. MALONEY

No, Darling, I came to see you. (TRIES TO FLIRT)

ERNIE

Me? What about?

MRS. MALONEY

Oh the dear bashful boy. Would you ever think a man could be so shy?

ERNIE

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ERNIE
Tell me what's on your mind, and perhaps I can advise you. Maybe you're not feeling well and want me to call a doctor.

MRS. MALONEY
No, don't call any doctor, but you could take me to a preacher.

ERNIE
To a preacher? What in the thunder do you want with a preacher?

MRS. MALONEY
Oh, darling, you know.

ERNIE
No, I'll be hanged if I do. Tell me.

MRS. MALONEY
(PRODUCES NOTE) I got it.

ERNIE
Yes, and you've got it bad. I wonder what she's talking about?

MRS. MALONEY
And I read every line of it over and over, and when I come to where it mentioned about being lonely, my poor girlish heart went bumpety bumpety bump.

ERNIE
I'll bet a dollar and a half that this poor woman has been drinking. (TO HER) This note that tells about being lonely, whom was it from?

MRS. MALONEY
Why, darling, it was from you.

ERNIE
From me? Suffering mackerel. There must be some mistake.

MRS. MALONEY
No mistake at all -- I have the note right here.

ERNIE
From me? Surely you're mistaken. Can I see it?

MRS. MALONEY
(WAVES HIM OFF) Get away, get away, it's from you all right, it's signed Ernie, but you are so bashful that you don't like to admit it.

ERNIE
Bashful the devil. I never wrote you a note in all my life. Let me see that note.

MRS. MALONEY
I'll do nothing of the kind. It's signed by you and if you don't marry me, I'll have you arrested this very day.

ERNIE
Show me that note, and if it's signed by me, I'll give you one thousand dollars for it.

MRS. MALONEY
Show me that you love me, and I'll

give you a thousand kisses.

ERNIE

Bah- a thousand kisses; I never wrote that note.

MRS. MALONEY

Oh yes, you did, your friend Henry told me all about it.

ERNIE

My friend Henry told you about it?

MRS. MALONEY

Sure he did, over the phone.

ERNIE

Great Scott I smell a mouse. This is one of Henry's tricks on me to get even for that red pepper; I must get rid of her before Rose gets here. I know I'll get her in the closet and lock the door. (STARTS TALKING TO HER) Now my dear Mrs. Maloney of course if I did write this note, I shall stand by it -(PUSHES HER IN CLOSET AND LOCKS DOOR) This way out for you.

***** NUMBER FOUR *****

(ENTER WITH ROSE) Well, it isn't my fault that Mrs. Maloney wasn't there.

ROSE

Oh I don't believe it. I don't believe what you're telling me about Ernie.

HENRY

If that washwoman had of been home, I'd have proven every word that I said.

VOICE OFF STAGE

Telegram for Mr. Henry Powell.

HENRY

That's me. (GETS TELEGRAM OFF C.) Well what do you think of this? My aunt Sarah informs me that she has been in town two days and the reason she did not call to see me was that she wanted to find out just what kind of a reputation I had among my clients.

ROSE

And did she find it out?

HENRY

She says that what she heard about me pleased her.

ROSE

She must have a sense of humor.

HENRY

Indeed she hasn't; in fact, she's a crank, that's what my aunt Sarah is.

ROSE

All aunt Sarah's are cranks.

HENRY

How do you know?

ROSE

Because I too have an Aunt Sarah.

HENRY

That's nice.

ROSE

No it isn't nice. She doesn't like Ernie, and conswuently she won't consent for me to get married.

HENRY

Well, maybe she'd change her mind about it if I were to ask her.
(ERNIE ENTERS C. UNSEEN)

ROSE

You would mean you would want to marry me?

HENRY

Would I? You can bet your life I would. (TAKES HER HAND)
Do you know, Miss St. Clair, that in the short time I have known you
, I have learned to love you?

ROSE

Really?

HENRY

Yes, honestly I have. (ARM AROUND HER)

ERNIE

(TAKES HIM BY EAR AND TURNS HIM AROUND) Outside, Bum. What's all
this?

ROSE

Oh he was just showing me how to love?

ERNIE

What? This? Tut, tut--(SNAPS FINGERS)

HENRY

Don't you tut tut me.

ERNIE

No, but I might shoot you if you don't make yourself scarce. Don't
you know that twos company and three' s a crowd?

HENRY

Then why don't you go home?

ERNIE

Look here, you, I just saw the janitor and he told me how you wrote
that love letter, signed my name to it, then got him to take it to
Mrs. Maloney, What do you mean by that?

HENRY

I was just getting even for that red pepper candy trick.

ERNIE

Oh you were, well now you get out and get while the getting is good.
(POINTS C. D.) This way out.

HENRY
(STARTS TURNS) Let me tell you, Mr. Red Pepper, I'll get even yet.
(EXITS C. D.)

ERNIE
Now, Rosie, I have made all necessary arrangements; I'll put you on a car; you go back to the hotel, pack your grip, and meet here and we will take the next train. I'll be disguised as your aunt. What do you say?

ROSE
Let's hurry before Auntie gets home. (THEY BOTH EXIT C. D.)

***** NUMBER FIVE *****

HENRY
(ENTERS C. D.) I wonder what I could have done with my aunt's letter? Oh I guess I know; I've got it in my coat pocket in the other room.
(EXIT R.)

ERNIE (HENRY ENTERS CRAWLS UNDER TABLE)
By Jove I have just found out that Ernie's aunt is coming here. Ha ha, now to disguise myself as Auntie and also get even with Henry for trying to steal my girl. I'll make a swell looking aunt. (PUTS ON WOMAN'S CLOTHES DURING FOLLOWING CONVERSATION) Henry will sure think I'm his aunt.

HENRY
(FROM UNDER TABLE) And you won't know who you are when I get thru

ERNIE
Gee, but won't he be surprised?

HENRY
Gee, and won't you?

ERNIE
I wonder how I'll look.

HENRY
Like a cyclone struck you.

ERNIE
I hope he don't try to kiss me.

HENRY
I will with my foot.

ERNIE
With this dress on I wonder if I look like Anna Held?

HENRY
With anything on you look like hell.

ERNIE
I wish my feet weren't so big.

HENRY
And you'll wish mine weren't too.

ERNIE

ERNIE

I wonder how I'll look sitting beside dear Henry.

HENRY

You won't be able to sit beside any ody.

ERNIE

There, now, I'm all dressed and ready for the show. (UP & DOWN)

HENRY

You mean for the massacre.

HENRY ERNIE

There, my viel is on, and no one will know me. (EXIT L.)

HENRY

(OUT FROM TABLE) Well, forewarned is forearmed. Just wait till my bogus aunt puts in an apperance, and if I'm not much mistaken he'll wish he never gave red pepper to me. (LOOKS AROUND AND GETS PAROSOL) This is the only thing I can find, but it will be quite suitable to greet my bogus aunt with. I'll bet when I get thru with aunt Ernie, He'll never want to be an aunt again. (EXITS R.)

SARAH

(ENTERS C. D. ~~LETS~~ VIEL TO SHOW WHO SHE IS ON FIRST ENTRANCE THEN LET'S IT DOWN) Well here, I am. Now I wonder where that nephew of mine is. I wonder if he'll know his old aunt. (HENRY ENTERS. SHE HAS VIEL DOWN) I beg your pardon, but aren't you Henry Powell?

HENRY

I am what can I do for you?

SARAH

Is it possible you don't know me, your Aunt Sarah?

HENRY

(ASIDE) So he is here, is she? (GRABS HER HAND AND SHAKES IT LIKE MAD) Why how do you do, dear auntie. I'm so glad to see you. (SHE TIE TO RELEASE HAND HE HOLDS AND WALLOPS HER ON THE HEAD WITH PAROSOL)

SARAH

Henry, are you going crazy? Leave my hand go or I shall call for help.

HENRY

(LETS GO OF HER HAND JABS HER RIBS WITH PAROSAL) Needn't scream. Nobody would pay any attention to you; this is the way all the boys in town meet their dear aunts. (SHE FALLS IN CHAIR HE POKES HER WITH PAROSAL) I am more than delighted to see you. (SHE OUT OF CHAIR BEHIND TABLE HE CHASES HER) Come on, you're a darned bum aunt that won't let your nephew love you a little.

SARAH

Oh you villian, not one penny of my money shall you get.

ERNIE

(TO HENRY AS HE ENTERS) I am Aunt Sarah; are you my nephew.

HENRY

(DROPS PAROSAL AMAZED) Great Scott it's Ernie. Why I thought that

lady there was you all the time.

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(ROSE ENTERS WITH ERNIE)

ERNIE
(PULLS OFF VEIL) No I am a lady, but not that one.

HENRY
Jumping Joseph, the jigs up. This lady here must be my real aunt.

ERNIE SARAH
No, I was your aunt, but from this day I disown you. You wretch,
to strike a poor defenseless woman. (CRIES)

HENRY
Look here, Auntie, I didn't know it was you; I thought it was my
friend here dressed up to fool me. You know today is April 1st.
April fool day, so I was just trying to get even with him--

SARAH
Can this be true?

ERNIE
Every word of it. I wanted to play this joke on him for trying to
steal the girl I love and the girl I was this very day going to run
away with. We intend to get married in the next town

SARAH
Why don't you marry her here?

ERNIE
Well, it's on account of her aunt who objects to me.

SARAH
This all seems so strange that I can hardly believe it.

ERNIE
Great Scott, what's the matter?

SARAH
(SEES ROSE) Is this the young lady you are in love with?

ERNIE
Yes, why?

SARAH
Well, let me tell you, young man, that this lady is my niece, and
that you are not going to run away with her.

ERNIE
Suffering polecats, can you beat it?

ROSE
Oh, Auntie, please let us get married. I love him so much.

SARAH
I don't care, you are too young to get married, and especially to
some one I don't know. (STAMPS FOOT)

HENRY
Well, Auntie, just one word if you please. When I first met this
young lady I didn't know that she was my own cousin, but I do know

my friend Ernie here, and know that he comes from a good family; he really loves her and would make her a good husband.

SARAH

Well, of course that's different. I guess I will have to give my consent; in fact, I will forgive you all.

MRS. MALONEY

NOISE OF CRASH OFF STAGE) Let me out of here. I'll get out.

ROSE

What's that?

~~JAMES MALONEY~~ ERNIE

I think the Elephant has broke loose.

MRS. MALONEY

(ENTERS R.) Ah, there's the scampe. I'll fix you for locking me in a closet you, young whippersnapper. Let me at him. Writing me love notes and then doin' me dirty.

HENRY

Now, Mrs. Maloney, allow me to explain. It was all a practical joke. We didn't mean for you to take it so hard.

MRS. MALONEY

Take it. I didn't get to take it he jammed me in a closet on my head

HENRY

Well, I wrote that letter to get Ernie in an embarrassing situation, but now you must forget it as there is the girl he going to marry.

MRS. MALONEY

Hump. She won't get much. Well, how about the bills you owe me and the back rent on this office of yours. Pay it now or get out.

SARAH

What does this all mean?

HENRY

I'll tell you. Business has been bad and I owe rent here--

MRS. MALONEY

You just bet he does.

SARAH

Well give your office up and devote your time to looking after my interests, and I'll pay you well. What say?

HENRY

That's a go, Auntie.

MRS. MALONEY

Does that mean you don't live here no more?

HENRY

No, I don't. I'm going to live with my auntie. My Aunt Sarah.

SARAH

My Henry.

ROSE
(THROWS ARMS AROUND ERNIE) My Ernie.

ERNIE
(EMBRACES ROSE) My Rose.

MRS. MALONEY
(BLOWS NOSE REAL LOUD) My Nose!

F I N A L E